

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

VO-03 SCA-01 PRS-01 PA-01 /053 W

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O 081610Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2508

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11473

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: BERLINGUER, THE PRESS AND THE UNITED STATES

SUMMARY: ITALIAN WEEKLY IL MONDO FOR AUGUST 14, 1975, CARRIES ARTICLE ALLEGING THAT ZUGMUNT NAGORSKI OF US COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS HAS WORKED OUT AUTUMN US A VISIT FOR PCI CHIEF ENRICO BERLINGUER. SAME ISSUE SELECTIVELY QUOTES FROM US PRESS TO IMPLY IMPENDING USG-PCI RAPPROCHMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT IN "DISCREET" CONTACTS AT BELLAGIO, CFR MEMBER ZYGMUNT NAGORSKI (MISSPELLED THROUGHOUT AS "ZAGORSKY") WORKED OUT WITH PCI FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR SERGIO SEGRE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A BERLINGUER VISIT TO THE U.S. THIS FALL. BY INDIRECTION, ARTICLE LEAVES THE STRONG IMPRESSION THE THE PURPORTED VISIT HAS OFFICIAL USG SANCTION: "BERLINGUER WILL THEREFORE BE THE FIRST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST LEADER TO BE RECEIVED AS SUCH IN WASHINGTON." THIS TURNABOUT IS DRAMATIC SINCE IT COMPRISES A "FORMAL CHANGE IN THE CONSTANT REFUSAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO ISSUE ENTRANCE VISAS TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP."

2. THE MAGAZINE FINS IN THIS "INVITATION" TO BERLINGUER (BY WHOM UNSPECIFIED) AN AMERICAN SANCTION FOR A PCI ROLE IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, AND CONFIRMATION "OF THE LIVELY  
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AMERICAN INTEREST IN RECENT PCI INITIATIVES FOR 'A DEMOCRATIC

SOCIALIST EUROPE' ". SUBSTANCE OF FOREGOING REPORTED IN  
CORRIERE DELLA SEA OF AUGUST 8, 1975.

3. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS REplete WITH QUOTES FROM  
RECENT NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHPOST ARTICLES ON ITALY, BERLINGUER  
AND PCI. EFFECT OF THE COMPOSITE IS THAT SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS  
IN AMERICAN SOCIETY ARE INCREASINGLY WELL DISPOSED TO PCI AND  
BERLINGUER AND, BY EXTENSION, LESS AND LESS OPPOSED TO PCI ROLE  
IN GOVERNMENT. SULZBERGER'S ARTICLE IN NYT IS EXTENSIVELY  
QUOTED, AND GIVEN MORE WEIGHT BY EDITORIAL NOTE THAT NYT IS THE  
"MOST AUTHORITATIVE INDEPENDENT AMERICAN DAILY, CONSIDERED THE  
SPOKESMAN OF THE PROGRESSIVE AND INTELLECTUAL EAST COAST ES-  
TABLISHMENT." CFR'S NAGORSKI IS QUOTED AS ASKING WHETHER ITALY  
MIGHT NOT BE GIVING BIRTH TO A SOCIOPOLITICO MOVEMENT ERRONE-  
OUSLY DEFINED AS COMMUNISM.

4. IN YET A THIRD ARTICLE, SAME ISSUE, IN MIDST OF A VENOMOUS  
ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR VOLPE BECAUSE HE IS OUT OF STEP WITH  
ALLEGED USG RAPPROACHMENT WITH PCI, IL MONDO COMMENTS: FUNCTIONARIES  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WHEN THEY COME TO ROME, GO TO  
DINNER WITH SERGIO SEGRE, OF THE PCI LEADERSHIP, OR WITH TOP  
MEN OF THE PSI. THEY RETURN TO WASHINGTON WITH FIRST-HAND  
NEWS WHICH TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER THE REPORTS SENT BY VOLPE."

5. NAGORSKI WAS QUOTED ALONG SAME LINES IN ARTICLE PUBLISHED  
IN WEEKLY EUROPEO OF JULY 18 (TRANSLATION POUCHED TO DESK  
JULY 19). NAGORSKI SENT AMBASSADOR COPY OF LETTER TO PUB-  
LISHER DENYING ALLEGATION IN EUROPEO ARTICLE THAT HE WAS ACTING  
AS OFFICIAL AGENT OF USG (COPIES POUCHED TO DESK JULY 31). TO  
DATE EUROPEO HAS NOT PUBLISHED NAGORSKI'S DENIAL.

6. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED PRESS QUERIES ABOUT IL MONDO ARTICLE.  
IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES EMBASSY WILL DENY ALLEGATION THAT  
NAGORSKI AUTHORIZED BY USG TO NEGOTIATE BERLINGUER OR OTHER  
SENIOR PCI OFFICIAL VISITS BO US AND ALSO DENY ANY CHANGE  
IN USG POLICY TOWARD PCI.

7. ANSA TICKER DATED AUGUST 8 CARRIES REPORT FROM CPI SOURCES  
TO EFFECT THAT BERLINGUER VISIT TO US "IS NOT BEING PREPARED."  
SAME SOURCES RECALL, HOWEVER, THAT BERLINGUER SAID PUBLICLY  
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ON JUNE 15, 1975, THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE US ("A WORLD  
TO DISCOVER") AND "WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE THE OCCASION TO  
EXPLAIN TO AMERICAN POLITICAL FIGURES THE REAL NATURE OF THE  
(PCI'S) POLICY . . . "

8. RECOMMENDATION: WHILE THERE APPEARS TO BE NOTHING WE CAN  
DO ABOUT OUR POSTURE OF OPPOSITION TO A PCI ROLE  
IN GOVERNMENT AND TO CREAT IMAGE OF

US ACCEPTANCE OF PCI AS A DEMOCRATIC PARY, WE RECOMMEND  
DEPARTMENT PUT THE LIE PUBLICALLY TO ALLEGATIONS OF BEHIND-THE-  
SCENES VISA NEGOTIATIONS WITH PCI LEADERS. A HIGH-LEVEL PUBLIC  
STATEMENT WOULD BE USEFUL, DENYING THAT NAGORSKI HAS BEEN AUTH-  
ORIZED TO NEGOTIATE WITH PCI OFFICIALS ON VISA OF INDEED OTHER  
MATTERS, AND ADDING THAT MATTERS AFFECTING PCI AND VISA APPLI-  
CATIONS FROM PCI OFFICIALS ARE HANDLED BY AMBASSADOR AND HIS  
STAFF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEPARMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS.VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PARTY LEADERS, VISITS, ALLEGATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Page Count:** 3  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BERLINGUER, THE PRESS AND THE UNITED STATES SUMMARY: ITALIAN WEEKLY IL MONDO FOR AUGUST 14, 1975, CARRIES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, IT, (BERLINGUER, ENRICO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006